

Remarks/Arguments

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 15 due to informalities. Claim 15 has been amended, pursuant to the Examiner's request, by replacing "said gripping means" with "a gripping means". Applicants courteously request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

The Rejection of Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 17 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Leitz Service in Ergolux B 0 1-Ersatzteilliste manual ("*Leitz*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration for the following reasons.

Leitz does not disclose a slide mount supported by an upper stage, as recited in Applicants' amended Claim 2. *Leitz* teaches "upper stage" (1) supported by "slide mount" (44). Contrarily, Applicants teach the reverse of the *Leitz* arrangement, *i.e.*, a slide mount supported by an upper stage. Moreover, Applicants' arrangement is a significant improvement over *Leitz* because "upper stage" (1) and "slide mount" (44) in *Leitz* can not adequately support a slide as in the arrangement taught in the instant application. Additionally, the *Leitz* arrangement does not have the capability of holding a slide stationary upon the upper stage because it does not have a slide mount supported by the upper stage.

Because Applicants' invention as recited in amended Claim 2 includes limitations not disclosed within the cited reference, Claim 2, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by *Leitz*. Additionally, because *Leitz* does not disclose, teach or suggest a slide mount supported by an upper stage, Claim 2 is also non-obvious in view of *Leitz*.

For all of the reasons stated above with regard to a slide mount supported by an upper stage, Claim 17 is also not anticipated by *Leitz*. Furthermore, Claim 17 recites an additional element not disclosed by *Leitz*, specifically, a joystick detachably secured to the slide mount, where the releasable attachment means is arranged to attach the rod to the slide mount. Thus, *Leitz* is missing essential elements of Applicants' invention, *i.e.*, a joystick detachably secured to the slide mount and a slide mount supported by an upper stage.

Because Applicants' invention as recited in amended Claim 17 includes limitations, *i.e.*, a joystick detachably secured to the slide mount and a slide mount supported by an upper stage, which are not disclosed within the cited reference, Claim 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by *Leitz*. Additionally, because *Leitz* does not disclose, teach or suggest using a joystick detachably secured to said slide mount or a slide mount supported by an upper stage, Claim 17 is also non-obvious in view of *Leitz*.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are courteously requested.

The Rejection of Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leitz* and U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0169492 (*Nishida et al.*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration, for all of the reasons recited above with respect to *Leitz*, in addition to the reasons set forth below.

Dependent Claims 3, 7, 9, 10 and 12-14 contain all of the limitations of independent Claim 2, due to their dependency therefrom. As previously mentioned, Claim 2 is not anticipated by, nor is it obvious in view of *Leitz*. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under Section 103, the references, alone or in combination, must teach all the elements of rejected Claims 3, 7, 9, 10 and 12-14, which they do not. Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine *Leitz* with *Nishida et al.*, or to modify the references to create the subject invention. Additionally, *Nishida et al.* does not cure the defects of *Leitz* described *supra*. Therefore, since Claim 2 is non-obvious in view of *Leitz*, and further in view of *Nishida et al.*, due to the missing limitations, it necessarily follows that Claims 3, 7, 9, 10 and 12-14 are also non-obvious in view of *Leitz*, and further in view of *Nishida et al.*, due to their dependency from Claim 2.

Similarly, independent Claim 16 recites limitations not taught in the cited references. Specifically, Claim 16 recites the limitation of a releasable attachment means arranged to releasably attach the shaft to the slide mount. Neither, *Leitz* nor *Nishida et al.* teach such a

limitation. As described above, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under Section 103, the references, alone or in combination, must teach all the elements of rejected Claim 16, which they do not. Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine *Leitz* with *Nishida et al.*, or to modify the references to create the subject invention. Therefore, Claim 16 is non-obvious in view of *Leitz*, and further in view of *Nishida et al.*, due to the missing limitations.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is appropriate and respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leitz*, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,157 (*Yoshioka et al.*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration, for all of the reasons recited above with respect to *Leitz*, in addition to the reasons set forth below.

As previously mentioned, Applicants respectfully submits that Claim 2 is non-obvious in view of *Leitz*. Additionally, *Yoshioka et al.* does not contain the missing limitations described *supra*. Further, there is no motivation to combine *Leitz* with *Yoshioka et al.* or change what is taught by these references. Therefore, it follows that Claim 2 is non-obvious in view of *Leitz*, and further in view of *Yoshioka et al.*. Hence, Claim 15 is also non-obvious in view of *Leitz*, and further in view of *Yoshioka et al.*, due to its dependency from Claim 2.

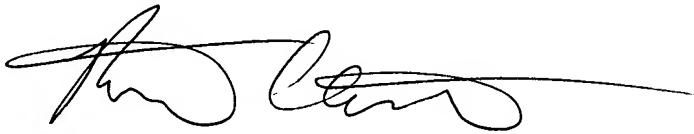
Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 15 is courteously requested.

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Conclusion

For all the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert C. Atkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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